

FY 2007 Report to the Hawaii State Legislature Status Report on Act 100, Section 2

Homeless Programs Branch
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Department of Human Services

Section 2 of Act 100, SLH 2006 requires an annual report to the legislature detailing the activities and outcomes under the above identified section.

The State has a long history of actively working with each County Continuum of Care (CoC) and the County housing/community service offices to plan and coordinate services for the homeless. The County Continuums of Care are community-based planning groups with diverse members from the community and County government who meet regularly to address the needs of the homeless in the various jurisdictions. The State and Counties are in active partnership to mitigate homelessness throughout the State. They are also members of the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness which has adopted a strategic plan to end homelessness in Hawaii.

Additionally, both the Counties and the State collaborate with the nonprofits on an ongoing basis to take whatever measures are available to ease the plight of the homeless and to prevent homelessness. The partnership between government and nonprofit organizations is nowhere more vibrant than that which exists in the homeless arena. The following report summarizes the activity and outcomes which have occurred during the past fiscal year over and above the continuing collaboration described above.

County of Kauai

Through a partnership between government and private nonprofit, the County's first emergency-transitional shelter has been completed in Lihue and officially opened on November 21, 2007. County-owned portables were moved to land transferred from the State to the County. Federal dollars were used to renovate the buildings for shelter accommodations and State stipend program dollars will provide the operational funds to a private nonprofit agency.

The highly successful housing placement program was expanded to Kauai County in 2006 and continued in FY 2007. Kauai Economic Opportunity is contracted with TANF dollars to solicit landlords to rent to credit risky, formerly homeless families and Section-8 voucher holders. The agency also provides tenant counseling and help with rental security deposit/ first month's rent.

The County has identified a State building which is being renovated for transitional housing for 20 homeless families. The \$400,000 in GIA provided to the County of Kauai in Act 100, SLH 2006, will support the conversion and operation of the former State Judiciary Bldg. as a shelter for the homeless.

County of Maui

Maui County had allocated county funds for the first phase of renovations to the Family Life Center building, which is the property of a private nonprofit, to provide emergency housing to the chronically homeless. The \$400,000 allocated to Maui County in Act 100, SLH 2006, will provide for the second phase of renovations to the Family Life Center building, thereby increasing their capacity to shelter the homeless. The project has been delayed as they are currently awaiting approval of the building permit. Upon approval, the renovation will begin.

The highly successful housing placement program was expanded to Maui County in 2006, and continued in FY 2007. The Family Life Center is contracted with TANF dollars to solicit landlords to rent to credit risky, formerly homeless families, and Section-8 voucher holders; provide tenant counseling; and help with rental security deposit/ first month's rent.

County of Hawaii

In 2006, the Office of Social Ministry opened a homeless drop-in center in Kona. The drop-in center was constructed as a public service by a private developer on County land which was set aside for homeless services. The State provides homeless outreach funds for operations at the drop-in center.

The Office of Social Ministry also obtained a lease for a 20-unit apartment building to begin a community reintegration program for exiting prisoners who have no where to go and who are headed for homelessness. This homeless prevention effort is a key piece to ending homelessness in Hawaii, as many exiting offenders join the ranks of the chronically homeless with multiple diagnoses.

The County of Hawaii used the \$400,000 allocation from Act 100, SLH 2006 to purchase two houses in Hilo which is being renovated and will be operated as a homeless shelters for special need, homeless families by a private nonprofit agency.

City and County of Honolulu

In FY 2007, three new shelters were opened to respond to the increased number of homeless needing shelter and more sites at Kalaeloa and on the Leeward Coast are being pursued.

- Oct. 2006 – Onelau'ena opened at Kalaeloa
Serves 200 + persons
State owned building renovated to shelter the homeless
- Oct. 2006 – Lighthouse Outreach opened in Waipahu
Serves 86 persons
Church-owned gymnasium opened as shelter to the homeless
- March 2007 – Pai'olu Kaiaulu emergency/transitional shelter opened in
Waianae with capacity for 300 people. Today, they are at 100%
occupancy.
State owned facility operated by a private nonprofit

Additionally, Ohana Ola O Kahumana completed the construction of 34 units of transitional housing in Waianae to add to the 14 units that they have operated for many years. They are now completing their resource center on the same site to facilitate services for the homeless at their shelter.

The Governor issued an emergency proclamation after assessing the health and safety issues with regard to the critical mass of unsheltered homeless living on the beaches of the Leeward Coast. A task force was initiated as a result of the proclamation to pave the way for shelter development to meet the needs of the unsheltered homeless. The task force, known as the HEART Team, has fast tracked the process of identifying potential shelter sites, gaining access to the sites, developing or renovating structures that can shelter the homeless, and maintaining ongoing communication with the Leeward communities.

Four additional shelter sites are under development:

- Bldg. 36 at Kalaeloa, a former military dormitory which can accommodate 72 singles, couples or single parent families
- Villages at Maili which will provide transitional housing for 250 people
- Kahikolu Ohana Hale O Waianae, an emergency/transitional shelter and affordable housing complex which will include 72 units and 40 dormitory beds.
- Seawinds in Waianae which is a combination of 25 units of transitional housing and 25 units of long term affordables.

The City and County of Honolulu has entered into agreement with the State of Hawaii to use the \$2 million allocation from Act 100, SLH 2006, to renovate IHS to increase capacity; to purchase a house between the windward side to north shore to provide shelter to the homeless, and to utilize some of the funds to assist in the shelter efforts on the Leeward Coast.

Summary

As evidenced by the activity in FY 2007, the partnerships and collaborations are inclusive of State, County and Federal government; private sector agencies; and concerned private citizens and businesses. Actions and strategies are built on community-based planning with all sector representatives actively participating. Further the collaborative efforts have resulted in homeless interventions wherein hundreds of unsheltered children are now in a healthy, nurturing environment, families are repairing their lives, and adults are getting the training and treatment that they need to give them hope for a better future.